



STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
310 GREAT CIRCLE ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Thank you for your participation in the TennCare program and your commitment to assist your patients as we implement the reforms necessary to bring program costs in line with available funding.

With a number of changes that will directly impact providers being implemented for the *TennCare Program*, this notice is being sent as a reminder of those changes. We encourage you to read this notice thoroughly and contact the First Health Call Center should you have additional questions.

Pharmacy Benzodiazepine and Barbiturate Clarification:

As has been communicated previously to both providers and enrollees, effective January 1, 2006, the Bureau of TennCare will follow the Medicare policy decision and discontinue coverage of the benzodiazepine and barbiturate classes for all adult recipients, including adult dual eligible recipients. To help enrollees who need to be tapered off these medications, the State is offering to reimburse pharmacies for a one time prescription that would encompass the tapering schedule. To obtain this prescription, the prescriber must call the First Health Clinical Call Center at 866-434-5524 to obtain a prior authorization before the pharmacy submits the claim. To obtain PA, the patient must have been on therapy for greater than six months and also currently on therapy. In addition, the prescriber must attest that the supply is specifically for tapering purposes.

This one time prescription can be filled using the patient's current TennCare ID and standard TennCare pharmacy process. The dispensing pharmacy will submit the claim to First Health using the correct day supply that will be used by the enrollee during the tapering period. Up to a two month supply will be allowed for this prescription.

These prescriptions are being paid for by the State and are not subject to TennCare rules such as prescription limits, days supply, and appeal rights. The new Prior Authorization Required Form should not be given to patients receiving a prescription for tapering of these drug classes.

Please forward or copy the information in this notice to all providers who may be affected by these processing changes.